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LONDON metro®
Wednesday, June 15, 2011
www.metronews.ca
News worth sharing.

London calls Game 7

Prominent locals face off on who will net a win tonight **It's a one-game cup showdown** **More coverage, page 13**

JIM REYNO
@METRONEWS.CA

Enough biting, taunting, head-hunting, whining, trash-talking: It's put up or (hopefully) shut up time for the Vancouver Canucks and Boston Bruins.

Who will win tonight's Game 7 of the Stanley Cup final? If the Bruins win, it will be their first NHL championship since 1972, when the season ended in May, there were no ads on the boards and there was no instigator rule. You know, when it was real hockey.

If the Canucks win, it will be their first title, and they'll be the first Canadian team to hoist Stanley since the Montreal Canadiens won in 1993. All that's remembered about that title is someone lost a bet and had to hand over a 40 of Crown Royal.

Either way, history will be made tonight, and most of us have an opinion about how things will unfold. We asked some prominent Londoners what they thought:

Joe Fontana, mayor of London: Vancouver of course! Canada always prevails when it comes to hockey.

Mark Hominick, UFC athlete: Canucks. Home-ice advantage has shown to be a huge advantage in the series. Also, how could I pick against the Canadian team!

Taz, morning radio host for Tucker and Taz in the morning on FM 96: Vancouver will win Game 7. My friend Baker paid me to say that.... He is a Bruins fan and any team I cheer for seems to lose!

Chris Bentley, Liberal MPP for London West and attorney general of Ontario: I'm cheering for Vancouver, and they're going to win 4-3! They're going to have all that positive, local, good Canadian support for them.

Sam Stout, UFC athlete: I just came from Vancouver. I'm not a big Boston fan or Vancouver fan, but I'm pulling for Vancouver to pull it off in Game 7 at home. Pretty much the team at home has taken it all along.

Cheryl Finn, director of sport tourism for Tourism London: I think Vancouver will pull it off. If Luongo behaves himself and quits firing up Boston with his sound bites, I think the Canucks will pull it off. It would be fantastic for Canadians to celebrate once again — I am aching for the national pride wave we were all riding before, during and after the Olympics!

Roop Chanderdat, London Majors manager: Vancouver because the home team has won every game thus far, and I think Luongo is due to bounce back once again.

Ron Scarfone, general manager of Joe Kool's: I think Vancouver should take it at home. But goaltending is going to be a big issue. I think they've got the power to do it. They've got to stay out of the penalty box. But overall, they have a great chance

Jeff McArthur, host of AM 980's McArthur in the Morning: Boston in Game 7. Why? They will be the only team to win three Game 7s to take the cup because they have the most heart and the most Canadians on their roster.

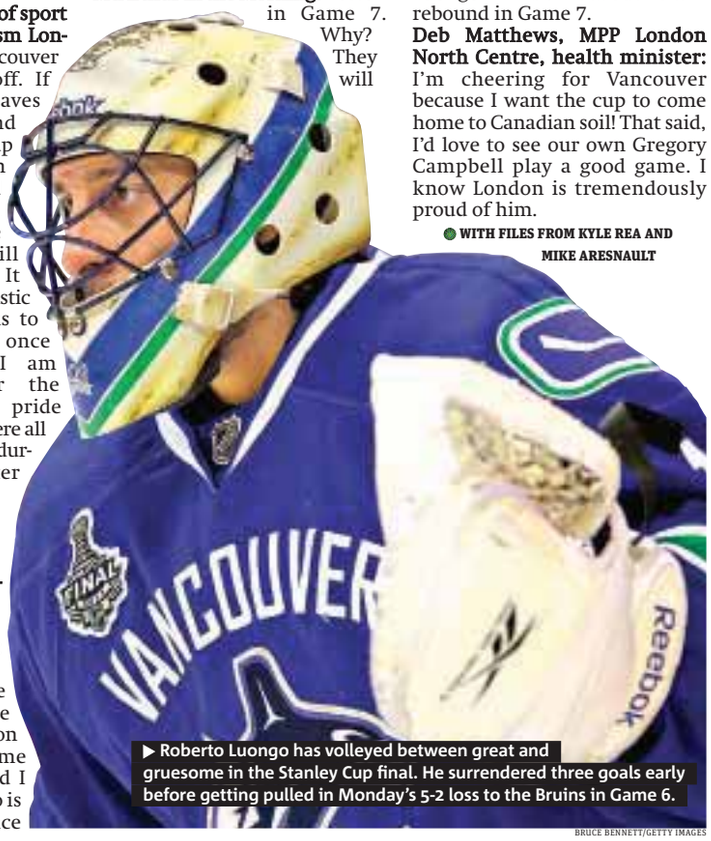
Ryan Gauss, general manager and CEO of London City Soccer Club: I think Vancouver will win, the reason being because they've just played so well at Rogers Arena. A lot of people have been giving Luongo a hard time ... but he will rebound in Game 7.

Deb Matthews, MPP London North Centre, health minister: I'm cheering for Vancouver because I want the cup to come home to Canadian soil! That said, I'd love to see our own Gregory Campbell play a good game. I know London is tremendously proud of him.

WITH FILES FROM KYLE REA AND MIKE ARESNAULT

▶ Tim Thomas made 36 saves in Game 6 for the Bruins, while burnishing his credentials for the Conn Smythe Trophy. Thomas has given up just eight goals in six games in a virtuoso performance in the final.

JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS



▶ Roberto Luongo has volleyed between great and gruesome in the Stanley Cup final. He surrendered three goals early before getting pulled in Monday's 5-2 loss to the Bruins in Game 6.

BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES

1 news

Book offers parents (and cool aunts and uncles) a guide to the fine art of roughhousing with the kids.

To scan 2D barcodes in Metro, download the free ScanLife app at 2dscan.com.

On the web at metronews.ca

Go behind the scenes to see how Parliament's sign-language interpreters keep up with Ottawa's sometimes raucous antics. Video at metronews.ca

Sharing with the cyclists

Stickers that read Watch for Bikes available at CAA to attach to mirrors and provide a warning

When it comes to car-bike collisions, we know who usually ends up winning — and it's a result that can have deadly consequences.

That's why London police have teamed up with CAA for the Watch for Bikes campaign, which kicked off yesterday.

The goal of the campaign is to remind drivers that cyclists have a right to be on the road too, and to watch out for them.

"It's mid-June, people are going to be getting on their bikes, so you're probably going to see a rise in car-bike collisions. That's something we're hoping to put a stop to," said John Ennis from CAA.

Sgt. Tom O'Brien of London police said cyclists can call and report if a driver has been too aggressive with them. That driver could get a warning letter from police.

"Cyclists are entitled to use the road and if their safety is compromised in any way, and if there's an applicable charge, then we the police would take action on that charge," he said. KYLE REA

Penalties

- Fines for cyclists who fail to follow the rules of the road include $85 for running a stop sign or cycling through a crosswalk.
- Under the Highway Traffic Act, bicycles are considered vehicles too, and must be given the right of way as any other vehicle.

Line drops for Bell employees

Bell Canada has announced plans to close one of its departments at its Dundas Street office.

The decision will put 125 workers in a difficult position, according to the union.

"They have the option to move with their work to our Scarborough call centre," said Noel Burgon, president of CEP Local 6005. "If they chose not to move with their jobs, they have an option to either leave the company or attempt to find a new position here in London. If they are not able to find that new position ... they will be terminated from Bell."AM980/AM980.CA

1,500
Number of employees Bell once had at its Dundas Street office. Yesterday's announcement will reduce the number of employees to fewer than 500.

Play. On

▶ Students from Lester B. Pearson School of the Arts in London perform a jazz concert for visitors in the plaza at the Covent Garden Market yesterday afternoon.

KYLE REA/METRO

Trumpeting a major sound

The school, which offers instruction on the arts for Grades 4 to 8, will be back again for another concert at the market on Friday.

News in brief

Man charged with arson of acquaintance's car, house

A London man has been charged with stealing and burning a car from an acquaintance, then returning later and setting the house on fire.

Early Friday, a man allegedly stole a car from 360 Chippendale Cres. and set the car on fire.

On Sunday at 4:20 p.m., a man returned to the residence and started a fire in the car port, police say. The occupant of the residence was home sleeping at the time. Police were able to wake the resident and evacuate the house.

There were no injuries.

Daniel Tiahur, 34, is charged with car theft, setting fire to a car and setting fire to a house knowing it was occupied. METRO

It's not a Miracle they raised so much

The London Wal-Mart Walk for Miracles held Sunday raised $207,553 for Children's Hospital at London Health Sciences Centre.

Hundreds of Wal-Mart employees and their friends and family registered and walked either one kilometre or five kilometres along the river in Springbank Gardens. METRO

Autumn Lovers' NXNE summer reunion

Local six-piece folk band to perform two sets at Toronto's international music festival ◗ Day show to be acoustic-only ◗ Late set to 'get loud'

JENSEN GIFFORD/CONTRIBUTED

▶ Olenka Krakus, second from the left, and the London band Olenka and the Autumn Lovers are scheduled to perform at Toronto's renowned NXNE festival.

AMANDA GRANT
LONDON@METRONEWS.CA

For Olenka and the Autumn Lovers, performing at the Canadian music festival North by Northeast will feel more like a reunion than a concert.

"The first time we went was really exciting because it was probably one of the first festivals we had done. Since then it has just become more and more like a family gathering," says Olenka Krakus, frontwoman of the London-based folk band.

"Despite the fact that it is still a large industry festival, you still get the sense that musicians are out supporting each other."

NXNE is a weeklong music, film and interactive festival held every June in Toronto. More than 625 international acts perform, showcasing the talents of established and emerging artists.

This year, Olenka and the Autumn Lovers are helping to carry the banner for London.

On Friday, Olenka and the Autumn Lovers will be performing in two NXNE showcases, one during the day at 4 p.m. in Trinity Bellwoods Park and the other a midnight concert at the Gladstone Hotel.

"It's going to be really hard to be running from one venue to another," says Krakus. "But that's part of what's interesting about doing the two showcases."

It's also interesting as each performance will be unique to its setting, Krakus says.

The afternoon show is set outdoors in the heart of downtown Toronto and is unplugged, forcing the six piece, which uses violin, cello, electric guitar, bass, lap steel, trumpet, classical guitar and drums, to switch things up.

"We've been so busy with shows we're just floating around ideas for this one. We need to see if we can duplicate some parts on acoustic instruments," Krakus says.

In the evening, the band will change gears, setting up in the historic hotel ballroom for a louder, amped set.

"It'll be our chance to just rock out," Krakus said.

Local talent

Other London acts performing at NXNE:

- **Say Domino.** This rock-funk trio will take the stage at Rancho Relaxo at 2 a.m. on Thursday.
- **Samantha Hooey.** Local singer-songwriter will perform at 9 p.m. on Friday at the Free Times Café.
- **Tickets.** Wristbands for NXNE are available at NXNE.com/tickets. Tickets for individual shows can be purchased at the door.

ROBERT BENZIE/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Gord Miller

Energy bill break is 'perverse'— rewards heavy users: Environment commissioner

Ontario's Liberal government sent the wrong signal by giving people 10 per cent off their electricity bills because it discourages conservation, Environmental Commissioner Gord Miller said yesterday.

The Liberals introduced the so-called Clean Energy Benefit last January after coming under fire for soaring hydro bills, which the government says will jump 46 per cent over five years.

The move is "no benefit to the cause of conservation," said Miller. "The problem with the 10 per cent (cut) is it means the people who use the most energy get the most money back and that is a disincentive, a perverse incentive," Miller said as he released his annual report. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Log on, give the Gift of Life

"As long as people are waiting for organs and tissue donations, it's important that we make registering to become an organ and tissue donor as quick and easy as possible."
HEALTH MINISTER DEB MATTHEWS

Signing up to be an organ donor in Ontario can now be done with the click of a mouse.

Those who want to register as an organ or tissue donor can go to a new website — BeADonor.ca.

Previously, those who wanted to register had to go to a ServiceOntario centre or download a Gift of Life consent form and mail it in.

Many people still carry a signed donor card in their wallets but officials say these cards are out of date and don't prove the donor is registered.

The Trillium Gift of Life Network, an Ontario government agency, says each donor could save up to eight lives.

Ontario Health Minister Deb Matthews says more than 1,500 people are currently on waiting lists for such transplants. THE CANADIAN PRESS

FATHER'S DAY

Run with dad to raise awareness

The Safeway Father's Day Walk/Run for Prostate Cancer Canada will be held Sunday at TD Waterhouse Stadium.

There's a five-kilometre run, 2.5-km and one-km runs and a tot run to raise awareness and funds for Prostate Cancer Canada.

Registration is at 8 a.m., and the run is scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. There are also various prizes available depending on how much fundraising teams accomplish.

Prizes range from a $25 gift card from the Running Room, if you raise between $250 and $499, to a Kobo e-reader for those who raise $5,000 or more.

To register or make a donation, visit prostatecancer.ca.

METRO

Man, 18, hit with child-porn charges

An 18-year-old London man has been charged after a child pornography investigation that began last week.

The London police cyber-crime unit executed a search warrant at a residence on Barclay Road after receiving a complaint of illegal images on a computer.

Ryan Siebenmorgen has been charged with two counts of possession of child pornography.

METRO

Backstage Bash tickets now on sale

Tickets are now available for the annual Backstage Bash at the Grand Theatre.

Starting at 11:30 a.m. Friday, come enjoy a barbecue and celebration on the Grand's main stage and see the view from an actor's perspective.

Tickets are $10 and include lunch, a drink and a chance to win door prizes.

Call the box office at 519-672-8800.

METRO

GEOFF HOWE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Canucks fans in Vancouver console each other following a Boston Bruins goal in game 6.

WILD RIDE NEARLY OVER

JEFF HODSON
@METRONEWS.CA

HOME ICE ADVANTAGE

There was a feeling of queasiness in Vancouver yesterday in the wake of the Canucks' disappointing 5-2 loss Monday against Boston.

It's a nauseated, green-about-the-gills feeling brought on by the stomach-curdling emotional highs and lows of this roller-coaster series.

People seem exhausted emotionally (physically in the case of their beer arms) and are looking forward to the series' culmination tonight.

Something else that has been noted in this most hypersensitive of cities is the nasty tang of bile coming out of the East.

Traditionally, Vancouver fumes at its perceived lack of profile in Central Canada. Now that its team has been acknowledged, it is confused by the hatred toward it.

JEFF HODSON IS MANAGING EDITOR OF METRO VANCOUVER

Canada extends Libya mission

National Transitional Council true representatives of the people: Baird

Parliament has formally extended Canada's military mission in Libya to the end of September as Ottawa endorsed the country's rebels as the legitimate government of the country.

By an overwhelming 294-1 margin, MPs approved the extension yesterday evening after an exhaustive day-long debate on Canada's involvement in the NATO-led, United Nations-sanctioned mission to protect civilians from dictator Moammar Gadhafi.

After the vote, Baird told reporters that he planned to meet soon with a Canadian-based member of the National Transitional Council of Libya. He moved to dispel any apprehension about the council, saying it represents "the best hope" for the future of the Libyan people.

"Whatever happens, they couldn't be any worse than Col. Gadhafi," said Baird.

Canada joins France, Spain, Italy, Germany, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates in formally recognizing the council.

Yesterday's vote extends the mission after NATO approved a 90-day extension earlier this month.

Green Party Leader Elizabeth May was the lone dissenter, saying she had concerns about "mission creep."

Paul Dewar, the NDP foreign affairs critic, urged more humanitarian assistance and called for greater efforts to investigate and prosecute alleged war crimes in Libya.

Baird reaffirmed last month's G8 commitment that "at the political level ... Mr. Gadhafi must go."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Minister of Foreign Affairs John Baird delivers a speech on the mission in Libya in the House of Commons yesterday.

Ottawa Libyans react

Libyans in Ottawa were happy that Canada will recognize the National Transitional Council.

"It's good news for me, it's good news for every Libyan," said Malik Taghdi, a Ottawa resident whose parents live in Tripoli. **JOE LOFARO**

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Ashes to ashes, dust to art on canvas

Artist uses fur, feathers and ashes to portray state of the world
Picking out pieces of bone is necessary before wetting his brush

You could say Marc Seguin has a twisted mind.

He's written a story for an upcoming cookbook in which the last survivor on earth eats herself to death, and, perhaps in a nod to Orwell's Animal Farm, is consumed by pigs who create their own world.

The Quebec artist is also fond of using dead animals and road kill in his paintings, their fur and feathers front and centre on the canvas.

Now, with his international star rapidly rising, particularly in New York, Seguin is turning heads with the most recent material on his palette: human ashes.

When a friend offered him the ashes of his mother, he spent some time deciding what to do with them.

"It's the symbolism of using human ashes that's important here — of life, leaving a trace."

He is using them not to paint posthumous portraits of the person from whom they were derived, but rather to do what he is celebrated for — commenting fearlessly on the state of the world and its repeated breakdowns.

Seguin, who is married with four children, chose bombed-out European churches from the Second World War. The images are stark. Gray and black. Collapsed roofs. Ruined arches. Splashes of blood red.

Seguin's treatment of churches extends to life in general. "The human experience has been a failure," he says. "We don't live long enough to correct things over time."

While laden with symbolism, the use of ash in painting is rather simple. Since cremation isn't perfect, he has to pick out pieces of bone, leaving only the fine powder. To that he adds his wet brush.

CONTRIBUTED

▶ Seguin's 2011 painting Ruins (Arches): oil, charcoal and ash on canvas.

The canvas is moistened so it swells. And when it dries it locks in the pigment.

In two years, Seguin has used the remains of seven bodies. Word-of-mouth has led people to donate.

Seguin says he has received no criticism for using ash. In fact, organic elements aren't new to artist's paint. Animal blood is still used to make reds, for instance.

As dark as his work seems to some, it may be that Seguin is a kind of optimist.

For this world so full of failures, "It's not too late," he argues. "I have to have some faith in something at some point."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

CONTRIBUTED

"I have a problem with death.... Why, after living so fully, do the lights suddenly have to go off? It's a way of mocking (death), to use this last symbol of it. "
MARC SEGUIN, ARTIST

Crime crackdown in Mohawk communities

Police launched a massive anti-drug crackdown yesterday involving about 500 officers, including the RCMP, at Mohawk communities around Montreal.

A number of searches and arrests have been made in Kanesatake, Akwesasne and Oka. Police said the operation involved organized crime and drug-trafficking at 50 sites. Seizures primarily involved marijuana.

The raids targeted suspects in Kanesatake, a community bedevilled in the past by violent responses to outside police forces operating within its borders. Kanesatake was also the site of the Oka Crisis, the historic 1990 standoff between police and Mohawk protestors.

But Grand Chief Paul Nicholas said this time many members of the community were involved in the police operation because they wanted illegal drug activities booted out.

"The community's fed up with the drug use," Nicholas said.

He also said the problems reach beyond pot, adding that cocaine and pharmaceutical abuse have become a scourge. When asked how he thought his community would react to the busts, Nicholas was confident the situation would not get out of hand.

Cpl. Luc Thibault said police worked with native police forces to help ensure they could handle the delicate operations on First Nations territories.

"We have a very good collaboration with aboriginal territories because naturally these people don't want drugs and don't want to see organized crime on their territory."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

GRAHAM HUGHES/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ RCMP officers stand outside the Kanesatake Mohawk reserve in Oka, Que., yesterday where they carried out raids.

38 arrest warrants have been handed out.

Gay marriage bill rejected in France

A French bill presented by the opposition Socialist Party seeking to legalize same-sex marriage was rejected, despite growing public support for gay rights.

It was turned down by 293 votes to 222.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. Rep. doll on sale

HeroBuilders.com has released the Anthony Weiner doll. The standard doll is $39.95 US, while the for-adults-only version is an extra $10. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HEROBUILDERS.COM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Anthony Weiner doll

$1K killing offer on Facebook: Police

Police say a Philadelphia woman posted on Facebook a $1,000 US offer to kill her child's father, and a man responded. London Eley, 20, is charged with solicitation to commit murder. Timothy Bynum, 18, is charged with attempted murder and conspiracy. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JIM WILKES/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Air Canada workers picket yesterday outside the departures level of Terminal 1 at Pearson International airport in Toronto.

Feds to quash strike?

Air Canada staff could be ordered back to work within 48 hours if two sides don't reach a deal

Ottawa is paving the way for back-to-work legislation for some 3,800 striking Air Canada employees, saying the economy is too weak to withstand a long strike.

"Air Canada has a huge section of the market in Canada in terms of travel," Finance Minister Jim Flaherty said yesterday. "It affects tourists, of course, but it affects business, it affects the delivery of cargo in Canada and from Canada abroad. So this is a matter of significant economic consequence."

The workers went on strike just after midnight yesterday. Pension and wages have been the major stumbling blocks in talks.

Managers have stepped in to replace the striking workers and, aside from slightly longer lineups and some minor delays, it was business as usual at Canada's major airports.

But the striking workers said things weren't running so smoothly behind the scenes and warned that wait times will only get longer as the work stoppage continues.

Air Canada said about one per cent of its flights were pre-emptively cancelled to ease congestion.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market moment

PRICES AS OF 5 P.M. YESTERDAY

TSX	Dollar
+ 158.1 (13,097.82)	+ 0.83¢ (103.21¢ US)

Oil	Natural gas 1,000 cu ft
+ $2.07 US ($99.37 US)	$4.581 US (– 6.5¢ US)

Gold $1, 524.40 US (+ $8.80 US)

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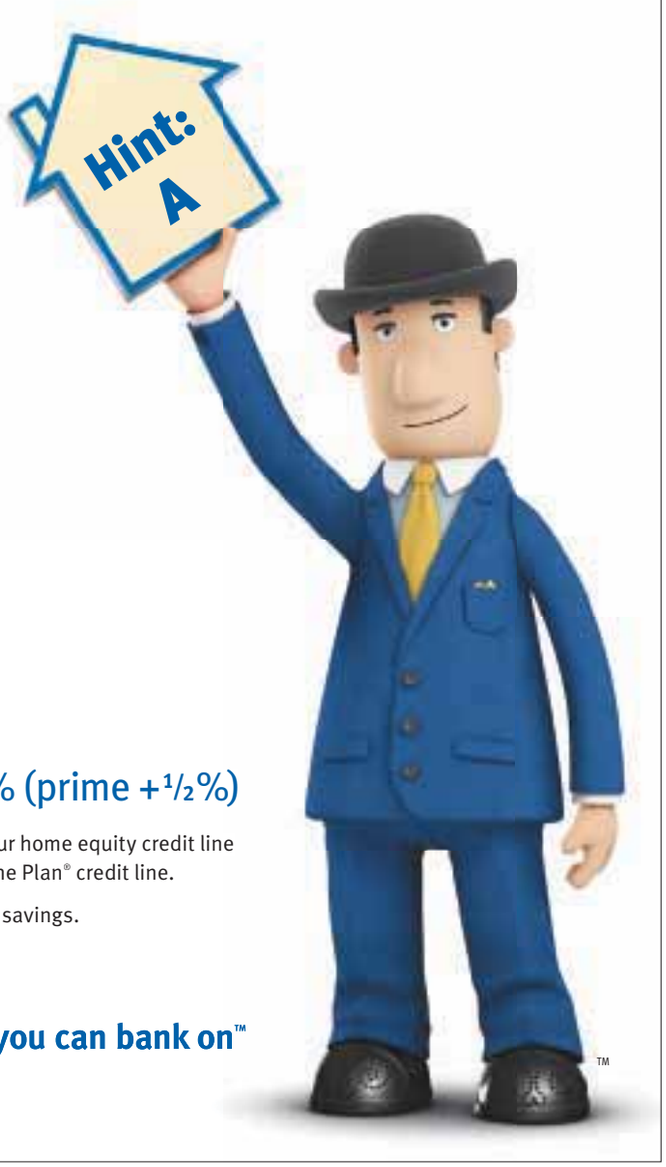

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APOLOGY ON BEHALF OF ALL MEN

JUST SAYIN' ...

PAUL SULLIVAN
METRO

Is it just me or do other guys feel compelled to apologize for Anthony Weiner the wiener?

If I were a woman, I would think Weiner the wiener is the greatest single argument for asexual reproduction ever. I would rather give birth to spores than have that jerk's baby.

But it's too late. His wife of one year, Huma Abedin, who is Hillary Clinton's closest aide, has been lugging the spawn of Weiner around the world, advising the U.S. secretary of state on matters of global concern while her wiener husband has been sending pictures of his biceps and his John Thomas to porn stars he met on the Internet.

Now the U.S. congressman has "taken a leave of absence" from the House of Representatives as he goes into treatment. Meanwhile, his wife and soon-to-be-born child are still out there trying to get Libya under control and fielding the fallout from the stupid husband tricks back home.

"If I were a woman, I would think Weiner the wiener is the greatest single argument for asexual reproduction ever."

Everyone says he should resign. Even Barack Obama says "If I were him, I'd resign." Weiner the wiener? Think about it. This is the guy who not so long ago was touted as the next mayor of New York City, the Great Democratic Hope. Now, he only qualifies as the Great Democratic Dope, following in the footsteps of the legendary Eliot Spitzer, the former Great Democratic Dope, who now has his own talk show.

Even Spitzer says Weiner the wiener should resign, citing "a flaw in his judgment, in his belief, even up to that point that he could somehow continue to deceive." Spitzer, also married, secretly cavorted with prostitutes at taxpayer expense while attorney general of the state of New York. Well, at least he is an expert on flaws in judgment.

Obviously, Weiner is going through the motions of contrition to try to save his sorry buns of steel while waiting for the talk show offers to come through.

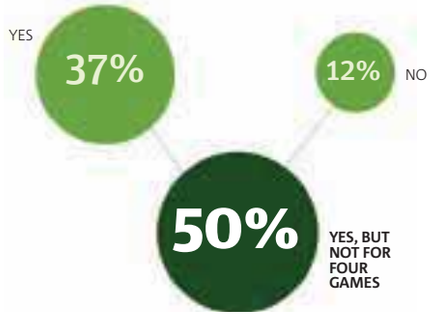
If you're a man (any kind of a man), when you compare Weiner the wiener with Arizona congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, who is courageously trying to regain the power of speech after having been shot in the head while doing her job, it's enough to make you turn in the keys to the F-150 and go back to human school.

So if he won't do the right thing, I will. I apologize to his wife because she seems like a nice person who doesn't deserve to be married to the biggest (smallest?) wiener on the planet, and I apologize to women everywhere who have to be totally fed up with men who haven't got a lick of sense, yet occupy positions of authority while they (the women, that is) continue to get the short end of the ... stick.

Read more of Paul Sullivan's columns at metronews.ca/justsaying

Register at metrolifepanel.ca and take the quick poll

Was the NHL right to suspend Vancouver's Aaron Rome?



Local tweets

- **@MonMc:** Is there any route from masonville to wortley village left in #ldnont that doesn't go thru hair-pulling construction?
- **@379collective:** What a great weekend to live in #ldnont! @carfreefest, Nuit Blanche, @LondonFringe kicks off as well as Snoop Dogg & kdlang concerts — wowsa
- **@ShaunaRae67:** Perfect weather! :) Okay, could be a tad toastier for me but I'll take it! #ldnont
- **@jccorks:** No Offence to #UWO but these Health Science speakers have no impact today on the graduating minds
- **@TheSarahKay:** I kinda want poutine, from that poutine place next to jacks. I don't even like poutine that much #cravings #ldnont
- **@morganleigh_:** Definitely shouldn't take long car rides with my mom anymore #frustrated — #ldnont bound.
- **@cindysmgra:** Where is a good meeting venue in #LdnOnt, downtown, 40 ppl, prefer windows, AV and lunch supplied on site?

Worth mentioning

WASHINGTON. Scientists are predicting the sun is heading into an unusual and extended super quiet mode. Around 2020, sunspots may disappear for years, maybe decades.

Scientists say there is nothing to worry about. Effects from a calmer sun are mostly good. There would be fewer disruptions of satellites and power systems. And it might mean a little less increase in global warming.

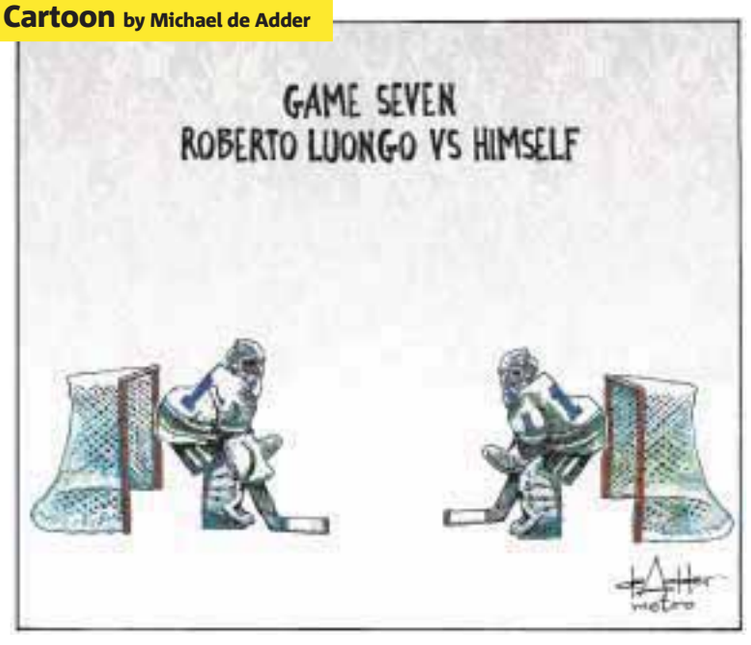
It has happened before, but not for a couple of centuries.

Scientists at a solar physics conference in New Mexico revealed their prediction based on sunspot activity, magnetic field strength and a disappearing solar jet stream.

The prediction is specifically aimed at the solar cycle starting in 2020, but experts say the sun already has been unusually quiet for about four years.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cartoon by Michael de Adder



WEIRD NEWS

Coming soon: Follow God on Twitter

Too busy to get to church to pray?

A Romanian company is offering believers an online service enabling them to send prayers to priests who will read them out during church services.

Romanian Orthodox Christians customarily write down prayers in church, which are then given to priests who read them out for a small fee. The prayers are traditionally for health, good exam results, happy marriages, and the forgiveness of sins.

Orthodox believers can now pay $1.44 US per day or $34 US online per month for their prayer to be read. Currently, just four churches are enlisted on the site.

Gandul.info reported yesterday that the Romanian Orthodox church, to which more than 85 per cent of Romanians belong, did not approve the move, warning it could lead to laziness. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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2 scene

COURTESY WARNER BROS. PICTURES.

▶ Ryan Reynolds suits up as Green Lantern in the latest DC Comics blockbuster.

Super duper fly role

Despite his abdominal and pectoral supremacy, Canadian-born Ryan Reynolds says he'd like to think he can encompass 'some sort of an average Joe'

NED EHRBAR
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

If people could be bound by anti-trust laws, Ryan Reynolds might find himself on the business end of some serious litigation. Between Hannibal King in Blade: Trinity, Deadpool in X-Men Origins: Wolverine and Hal Jordan in this summer's Green Lantern, the sitcom star-turned-hard bodied leading man has created a superhero monopoly.

Sitting down to chat with the actor, one has to ask, what makes Reynolds so superhero-y?

"Well, first of all, Hannibal King is not a superhero," Reynolds deadpans with his signature sardonic wit. "He's a human being who bleeds and dies if you stab him. Deadpool is kind of an anti-hero, not a superhero. In fact, he'd probably kill you if you called him a superhero. Green Lantern — now that's a superhero," he grins.

Evasive answers aside, the 34-year-old Canadian has undeniably become one of Hollywood's go-to action idols, a distinction Reynolds shrugs off with charming humility. "I'd like to think that I can encompass some sort of an average Joe," he offers.

"That's what [Green Lantern] is. This ring selected this guy for reasons totally baffling to him and everyone around him, for an unbelievable, extraordinary task. But it could be anyone."

His co-stars might beg to differ. "He's a great superhero, but, specifically, he's a great Green Lantern," explains Blake Lively, who plays Carol Ferris, Hal's contentious love interest.

"Green Lantern is a person who is a strong, capable man, but he's also very human and he gets by on his charms. Having someone like Ryan play this character, who has such a heart, humanity and incredible likability, who's disarmingly charming and witty — you really need that."

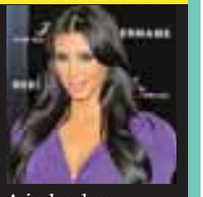
Peter Sarsgaard, who plays the evil, bulbous-headed Dr. Hector Hammond, adds, "I think it's a kind of honesty. There are a lot of good actors who always seem like they've got a card face down somewhere that they're not telling you about. With Ryan it seems like he has all his cards out all the time. And he manages to still be interesting when doing that."

Nerdy charm

Ryan Reynolds admits there's an inner geek lurking just below his well-hewn surface.

▶ "Yeah, I was a drama geek and all that crap when I was a kid," he says. "And I looked like a young Asian girl until I was 19."

Scene in brief



A judge has thrown out a $75 million lawsuit filed against the Kardashian sisters after they yanked their endorsement of a prepaid debit card that was criticized for its high fees, saying the reality show stars had no duty to promote a product that might be considered unlawful.

Kim, Khloe and Kourtney Kardashian withdrew their support for the debit card three weeks after the product launched following a warning from Connecticut Attorney General Richard Blumenthal that the card's fees were "predatory."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

McCartney's first solo disc, received badly at first, gets a second chance. Scan code for story

'I've never courted fame': Mark Strong

RICHARD CROUSE
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

When I tell Mark Strong, the handsome English actor with a jaw line perfectly suited to his last name, that he is almost unrecognizable as the alien enforcer Sinestro in the new Green Lantern movie, he is chuffed.

"Good," he says. "I miss the fact that I can't be somebody that people don't know. I wish that people would encounter Sinestro and say, 'Who is that guy?' Because to blend into the characters dates back to my theatre roots. In drama school I played the 75-year-old character of Moses in Sheridan's The School for Scandal, aged 24. The transformation is the thing I enjoyed most of all."

But what kind of movie star likes to go unrecognized? Surely not someone who has starred in Guy Ritchie and Ridley Scott movies and acted opposite the likes of Robert Downey Jr. and Leonardo DiCaprio?

"The truth is I've never courted fame," he says.

"I don't have a PR machine working for me. I don't go to premieres and openings that I'm not involved in. I don't do interviews or try and get on the telly just to keep my face around."

Strong, an alum of the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School, doesn't buy into the North American idea of stardom.

"It is a job," he says. "That's what we're trained for. I think the fact that we have hundreds of years of tradition of acting in Britain… it isn't exotic [to us]. It is a craft. For me film is exotic."

COURTESY WARNER BROS. PICTURES.

▶ Mark Strong shines as the alien enforcer Sinestro in the new Green Lantern movie.

DAVE HOGAN/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Mark Strong

Fergie isn't pregnant, just really likes tacos

Black Eyed Peas star denies baby rumours ◆ Admits to bad eating habits

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Black Eyed Peas singer Fergie says she understands where all the rumors about her baby-making plans are coming from.

"I gain and lose weight everywhere from the thighs up. I think people think that I'm pregnant sometimes because my weight fluctuates," she tells Allure magazine.

"My problem is my discipline. I see a Jack in the Box or a DelTaco, and I will impulsively want it. I'm a work in progress in that area."

Fergie said earlier this year that she's putting her solo career on hold so she can spend time with her hubby, Josh Duhamel.

METRO

"I gain and lose weight everywhere from the thighs up. I think people think that I'm pregnant sometimes because my weight fluctuates"
FERGIE

▶ Fergie

Talking points

Beckham's are Desperate for a godmother

WHAT AN HONOUR. Victoria Beckham has everything in order for the arrival of her and David Beckham's first daughter, including the baby's godmother. The Beckhams have reportedly asked Desperate Housewives star Eva Longoria to do the honours, according to the Sun.

"Victoria ran it past David and they both want Eva," a source says. "She's extremely honoured." METRO

Lindsay Lohan throws house arrest party

LEARNING HER LESSONS Just because she's being kept under house arrest doesn't mean Lindsay Lohan isn't having any fun.

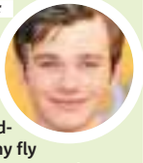
The troubled actress was spotted throwing a rooftop party at her Venice Beach condominium recently, according to Splash News. While her guests indulged in beer and wine, Lohan wasn't seen drinking, though the soiree was apparently intense enough to necessitate a costume change for the Mean Girls star as the evening wore on.

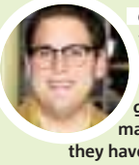
METRO

Celebrity tweets

@torianddean
"Paparazzi chased me w/the kids 2school. I was trying to get away from him and had a pretty big accident. Took down whole wall of school. He thn STILL got out to try to get pics. 10 school moms chased him away. Wht will it take? Someone dying for paparazzi to stop? Going to dr now to check on baby. I think its just shock."

@jimmykimmel
"I'd like parents to start naming boys Barney again."


@chriscolfer
"Oh gosh! Anyone know why Kurt Hummel is trending? Was my fly down at the concert last night or something?"


@JonahHill
"Old people love it when you guess how many years they have left."

Selena to slow down

At her first performance since being hospitalized last week, pop singer Selena Gomez addressed the health issues that ruined her weekend, according to People magazine.

"I was just very malnourished, so I was low on iron and exhausted," she said from the stage at Santa Monica Place Monday night.

"I do feel better."

Gomez's mother, Mandy Teefey, meanwhile, wants to see her daughter not work as hard, according to Popeater.

"Her schedule is insane," a source says. "Now even Selena knows she needs to slow down." METRO

▶ Selena Gomez

Sheen returning soon?

Charlie Sheen is reportedly in "deep negotiations" for a return to network television after his very public departure from Two and a Half Men, according to TMZ.

While the network with which Sheen is said to be negotiating has not been named, sources say the the new sitcom would go straight on the air without having to have a pilot episode reviewed, which is incredibly rare in television. A deal could come this week. METRO

▶ Charlie Sheen

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3 life

Travel in brief

Need a suggestion for National Canoe Day, from June 25 to 26?

How about strapping your canoe to your roof and driving around with it for the day?

That is among the ideas offered by the Canadian Canoe Museum to mark the occasion.

Other suggestions include staging a canoe-a-thon, a race or "main-street portage."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canadians volunteering at Haitian orphanage receive as much as they give

DARREN PARKMAN

▶ Museum of Fine Arts in Mexico City.

Where to go

- **Main Temple of the Aztecs:** Located downtown, excavation of the great temple began back in the 70s, and isn't finished yet. You can see the ruins from the sidewalk, but for a small fee, you can walk amongst the ruins and check out the on-site museum.
- **Latin American Tower:** This downtown skyscraper has a great open-air terrace on the 44th floor, with observation decks just below. You can also visit the museum on the 37th floor.

¿Yo quiero Segway tour?

Despite the hustle and bustle of one of the world's most populated cities, The Travellin' Canadian took in Mexico City from a Segway The electric vehicle is the perfect way to get a 360 degree view

THE TRAVELLIN' CANADIAN

DARREN PARKMAN
TRAVEL@METRONEWS.CA

Because it's one of the largest cities in the world, Mexico City is chock-full of fascinating history, monuments and architecture. It would take days, or even weeks, to take in the highlights. That is, if you don't have a Segway!

These high tech puppies can really move, and are really the perfect way to take in the sites in a huge place like this. On a sunny Sunday, after paying a small rental fee, I found myself zipping down famous Reforma Avenue while proudly standing on board my cool new self-balancing electric vehicle.

It's amazing how these machines can zip down sidewalks, streets and alleys without the restrictions of a car or motorcycle. Before long, I had passed the historic and beautiful Palace of Fine Arts, before circling the winged goddess on top of the super tall Monument of Independence.

Another great thing about touring the city on a Segway is all the admiring looks, and even cheers you tend to get from onlookers.

For a brief moment, I felt like a star.

That feeling abruptly ended when I hit a curb at a crowded intersection and awkwardly stumbled off my machine, prompting a few hurtful snickers.

After climbing back on, I pressed on to the Museum of Anthropology, which in itself can be an all-day affair. Here is where many Aztec pre-Columbian artifacts can be seen, including the most impressive original Stone of the Sun, better known as the Aztec calendar. I ended my Segway tour in the huge historical center of the city known as the Zocalo or main square.

This is one of the largest open squares in the world, surrounded by beautiful architecture. Summer is actually the perfect time for a Segway tour of this great city. The hottest, most humid time in Mexico City is early spring. July and August are cooler and more comfortable, perfect for taking in the sites.

KATHY WILLENS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ New Yorkers enjoy the second section of the High Line.

▶ The Google Bridge goes over Manhattan's West 15th street between two buildings.

The high life in NYC

From the High Line you can see the Statue of Liberty, the Empire State Building and the Chrysler Building

The ribbon was cut last week on the long-awaited second section of New York City's High Line, revealing a lush green lawn, prime lounging spots and a less-industrial feel than the original stretch of the famous park built on abandoned railroad tracks nine metres above ground.

The new section ends at 30th Street, adding 10 blocks and doubling the length to 1.6 kilometres. The first segment opened in June 2009 and runs from Gansevoort Street to 20th Street.

The park meandering through some of Manhattan's hippest 'hoods is already a superstar attraction with two million visitors a year.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶Visitors stroll down a walkway.

History

Freight traffic in the area began on street level in 1847, delivering dairy, meat and produce to factories and packing plants on the West Side near the Hudson River.

- **The trains crashed** so often with traffic that 10th Avenue was dubbed Death Avenue.
- **The tracks were** elevated in 1934.
- **The last train** went through in 1980, carrying three carloads of frozen turkeys.

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Fort Lauderdale $22
Travel Jun 25 - Jul 2/ts — + taxes & fees $277

Rome $45
Travel Jun 18 - Jun 25/wg — + taxes & fees $329

Montreal one-way $49
Travel Jul 7/ws — + taxes & fees $63

Hamburg $63
Travel Jun 22 - Jun 30/ts — + taxes & fees $486

London $99
Travel Jun 21 - Jun 27/wg — + taxes & fees $422

Paris $99
Travel Jun 18 - Jun 27/wg — + taxes & fees $374

Madrid $123
Travel Jun 18 - Jun 26/ts — + taxes & fees $426

New York $198
Travel Jun 29 - Jul 6/sc — + taxes & fees $117

Vancouver $249
Travel Aug 23 - Sep 5/wg — + taxes & fees $302

Los Angeles $479
Travel Jul 6 - Jul 13/sc — + taxes & fees $128

Canada

Great Wolf Lodge
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Great Wolf Lodge — taxes & fees included
INCLUDES family suite Niagara Falls accom with waterpark pass. Price is per person based on a family of 4. Travel Jul 1 - 31/ggv.

Blue Mountain Peak to Shore Music & Art Fest, 2 Nights 4-Star $129◊
Westin Trillium House — taxes & fees included
INCLUDES accom with kitchenette. Price is per person based on family of 4. Travel Aug 12/ggv. Book package based on double occupancy from $265 per person.

Muskokas 4 Nights 4-Star $359
Pinestone Resort — taxes & fees included
INCLUDES accom in the Haliburton Highlands. Travel Jun 15 - Jul 31/ggv. ADD 2-day economy car rental with unlimited mileage for $33 per day.

Cottage Country 3 Nights $399◊
Elmhirst's Resort — taxes & fees included
INCLUDES lakeview, self-catering cottage accom with private dock on Rice Lake. Boat rentals available. Price is per person based on family of 4. Travel Jul 14/ggv.

Europe

London
Air + First 2 Nights
$309
Tavistock Hotel — + taxes & fees $522
INCLUDES Russell Square accom and breakfast. Departs Sep 7/vat/ts. UPGRADE to 4-star Novotel London West for $21 per night.

Munich Oktoberfest Air + First 2 Nights $569
Leonardo Hotel & Residenz Munich — + taxes & fees $502
INCLUDES downtown accom. Departs Sep 20/ggv/ts. ADD Eurail Global Pass Saver for $690.

Dublin Air + First 2 Nights $619
Sandymount — + taxes & fees $425
INCLUDES central accom. Departs Sep 8/ggv/ts. UPGRADE to 4-star Gresham Hotel for $16 per night. ADD Guinness Storehouse tour for $24.

Amalfi Coast Air + 7 Nights $959
Villa Romana Hotel — + taxes & fees $429
INCLUDES airfare into Rome, accom with 2 meals per day and roundtrip hotel transfers. Departs Sep 2/vat/ts.

Nice Air + 6 Nights $1279
Citadines Promenade — + taxes & fees $515
INCLUDES accom near sights and attractions. Departs Sep 13/ggv/af.

USA

Orlando
Family Special, Air + 7 Nights
$129◊
Saratoga Hotel and Suites — + taxes & fees $277
INCLUDES accom near theme parks. BONUS complimentary shuttle service to theme parks. Price is person based on a family of 4. Departs Jun 24/ggv/ts.

Las Vegas Air + 4 Nights $235
Imperial Palace — + taxes & fees $307
INCLUDES accom on the Strip. Departs Jun 26/swg/wg. UPGRADE to 4-star Luxor for $15 per night. ADD Vegas Passport Bachelor/Bachelorette Party pass for $76.

New York City Air + 3 Nights $494
Days Hotel Broadway — + taxes & fees $103
INCLUDES Manhattan accom. Departs Aug 14, 21/ggv/dl. UPGRADE to 4-star Grand Hyatt New York for $45 per night. ADD theatre tickets to *Chicago, Billy Elliott, Mary Poppins* or *Memphis* for $143.

New Orleans Air + 4 Nights $579
Chateau Bourbon — + taxes & fees $129
INCLUDES accom in the French Quarter. Departs Sep 13, 20/ggv/us. UPGRADE to 4-star W New Orleans for $17 per night. ADD Swamp & Bayou Tour for $50.

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The future should not be foretold

Taking a guess at a young child's scholastic future is a relatively futile and potentially damaging pursuit

Educators often feel that they can predict students' academic futures.

For instance, educators may think that they can tell how students will perform in Grade 8 or Grade 9 as early as Grades 1 or 2. However there is research evidence to show that predictions about students' futures are often wrong.

There are strong links between characteristics of students, such as their socio-economic status or their school readiness, and their later achievement but these relationships do not hold for all individuals.

Many studies show that these predictions turn out to be wrong much more often than most people think. Canadian data shows that more than 40 per cent of students scoring at the bottom reading level at age 15 were in post- secondary education at age 21.

Research also shows that the accuracy of predictions about students declines over time; that is, one year's achievement predicts the following year's quite well, but is less accurate in predicting achievement three or four years later.

The key thing that the research tells us is that students can and do change. With the right supports, students can achieve far more than anyone thought they could. Encouragement and support from both schools and families can also make those negative predictions less likely to be true.

Parents and educators should be cautious in assuming that the future of their child may be predicted based on their current performance. Secondly, parents should be actively involved in supporting and advocating for their child rather than accepting a negative future.

This might include being optimistic with the child about the future, or the child's teacher identifying areas where home and school can work together.

ISTOCK

▶ Whether she's excelling in elementary school or not has little bearing on how she will do as an older student, research shows.

COURTESY OF THE CANADIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION (CEA) AND THE ONTARIO INSTITUTE FOR STUDIES IN EDUCATION/UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO (OISE/UT)

Web Awareness

For online resources on predictions as well as the research references that inform this issue, please visit:

▶ cea-ace.ca/facts-on-education

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STUDENT VOICE

SHREE GOVINDARAJAN
TALENTEGG.CA

I graduated from the University of Alberta a couple of months ago, in April 2011. However, the decisions I made about my next steps started much sooner than that.

As soon as my last year at began, I felt the pressure of having to figure out my next move. As a marketing major, my path was not as easily determined as my friends in accounting, engineering, or law.

Upon their advice, I began searching online for my dream job, which was elusive at best. After a few months of searching, I realized that part of the reason I was having no luck in finding that "perfect" job was that I didn't really want to find it.

I knew that if I found a job at a company and began working full-time after graduation, I would never leave. I would be a loyal employee, I'd work hard and I'd hopefully be promoted after a few months or years, beginning my stagnancy in life at the age of 21.

I knew I wanted to travel more and see the world, but a simple two-month trip to Europe before settling down didn't feel like enough to me. I wanted to actually experience life in another culture.

This is where AIESEC Edmonton came in. I joined AIESEC, a global internship program entirely run by students, in my first year of university. Being offered both leadership and exchange opportunities with the organization, I opted for the leadership side for three and a half years of my university education as I truly enjoy helping others succeed.

As AIESEC Edmonton's president in my last year of university, I realized my passion for providing others with the opportunity to go abroad and experience professional opportunities.

Student groups and clubs are the best way for students to experience great levels of leadership and management skills.

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BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES

▶ The playoff struggle ends with Game 7 tonight. Either the Bruins or Canucks will earn the right to hoist the Stanley Cup.

Last stand for Stanley

Bruins have outscored Canucks 19-8 through first six games of final

One of the strangest Stanley Cup finals anyone can remember is going to end with something everyone can understand: A single game, with everything on the line, winner-take-all.

All of the bizarre stats and storylines won't matter to the Vancouver Canucks or Boston Bruins if they can find a way to win Game 7 at Rogers Arena tonight.

Vancouver is coming off Monday's 5-2 loss — the third beating it endured in Boston — but should be considered the favourite. The Canucks have been virtually unbeatable at home.

"To tell you the truth it doesn't really matter," Canucks coach Alain Vigneault said of the Game 6 loss. "At the end of the day, they won and we're going back home in front of our fans. One game showdown to win the cup. That's it."

BRUINS CANUCKS

▶ **Time:** 8 p.m.
Channel: CBC

The Canucks are facing Game 7 without Mason Raymond, who suffered a vertebrae compression fracture on a Johnny Boychuk hit early in Game 6. He follows Vancouver's Dan Hamhuis (undisclosed) and Boston's Nathan Horton (concussion) in being knocked out of the final.

Roberto Luongo will have the chance to lift the cup after posting two shutouts at home and getting pulled twice in Boston.

"You can't hang your head now and feel sorry for yourself, that would be the worst thing I could do," said Luongo.

The Bruins have to find a way to bring their best game on the road. They were aggressive in the TD Garden games, but have looked timid at Rogers Arena.

They scored 17 goals in Boston and just two in Vancouver.

"We are very well aware of how we've played on the road the last three games in Vancouver," said Bruins coach Claude Julien. "We've created ourselves another opportunity and it's up to us to take advantage of it."

"But we've got to be hungrier than we have been the last three times in Vancouver." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Police not expecting Vancouver riot repeat

As Vancouver gets ready for the final game of the Stanley Cup playoffs tonight, it does so under the shadow of the events that unfolded the last time the city was involved in the final.

It's been 17 years but images of the Stanley Cup riot of 1994 still haunt the city, where thousands of people went on a rampage following the Canucks' loss to the New York Rangers. Fans smashed windows, threw bricks and looted downtown stores.

Police made 150 arrests in a matter of hours. Another 200 people were injured and Vancouver was left with a legacy of restrictive rules aimed at preventing any embarrassing repeats.

But Vancouver police say much has changed since then and, while they're certainly prepared, they're not anticipating any violence tonight.

"By and large ... things have gone quite well," Const. Lindsey Houghton said yesterday of the playoffs so far.

The B.C. government ordered downtown liquor stores be shut down at 4 p.m. for Game 6, and may do so again tonight.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

$12K As of yesterday afternoon, ticket seller StubHub had some 420 tickets available for Game 7 from $1,600 US to $12,413, although the number available and price fluctuated.

4 sports

Quoted

"At the end of the day, I've got to move on with my life. So it wasn't saying that I'm superior or better than anyone else, any man or woman on this planet. I'm not."

MIAMI'S LEBRON JAMES YESTERDAY, CLARIFYING COMMENTS HE MADE AGAINST HIS DETRACTORS AFTER THE HEAT WERE ELIMINATED IN THE NBA FINALS.

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Sides make progress in NFL labour talks

Don't break out the tailgate gear just yet. An end to the NFL lockout might not be imminent.

It does appears much closer than at any point in the last three months, though.

Recent progress in labour talks between the league and players has sparked a new sense of optimism, and team owners have been told to be ready to extend their one-day meetings in Chicago next week.

The two sides made progress in labour negotiations held yesterday at an undisclosed location in Maryland. Those talks will go through at least today and quite possibly to the end of the week.

A person with knowledge of the talks told The Associated Press that finalizing an agreement by next week's owners' meetings is unlikely. But a framework for a new collective bargaining deal could be presented in Chicago, with further tweaking extending the work stoppage until the end of the month.

A new CBA could be in place before the July 4th weekend, the person added, speaking on condition of anonymity because details of the meeting are not being made public.

Another person familiar with the talks told the AP that the owners and players are "headed in the right direction" and that lawyers "are back in the room" after being excluded from sessions the past two weeks.

Previous "secret" meetings have taken place in Chicago and New York. Such sessions have been critical in past NFL negotiations, dating back to the 1980s.

Still, it would be premature to predict that the lockout is about to end, the people familiar with the talks told the AP. Yet the atmosphere of negotiations has been more positive than it was previously, creating "a sense of movement," they said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mavs focused on present

Owner Mark Cuban to pick up tab on tomorrow's championship parade

Team already focused on next year

Dirk Nowitzki was talking about the NBA championship capping his career wish list and how much it meant after all the heartbreaks along the way.

He wondered aloud about trying to find something else that could push him so hard. Then he stopped, laughed and said: "I'm not going to retire or anything if that's what you think."

The Mavericks are back in Dallas after wrapping up the franchise's first title.

While the Mavericks know they'll have the finals MVP back next season, it remains to be seen who will be part of Nowitzki's supporting cast. Starting centre Tyson Chandler, valuable guard J.J. Barea, injured scorer Caron Butler, DeShawn Stevenson, Brian Cardinal and Peja Stojakovic are all free agents.

The NBA's uncertain labour status complicates things.

So, for now, the Mavs are focused on savouring the first title in franchise history.

Barea already has plans to take the championship trophy to Puerto Rico. Nowitzki hadn't asked yet to take it to Germany, but upon hearing about Barea's plan said he liked the idea.

The big celebration will come tomorrow, with a parade through downtown.

Robe renewal

Jason Terry delighted in wearing a new white robe with the finals logo on one side of the chest, gold leafs in front of the NBA logo on the other. It was a gift from coach Rick Carlisle, who two years ago took away his favourite robe during a losing streak.

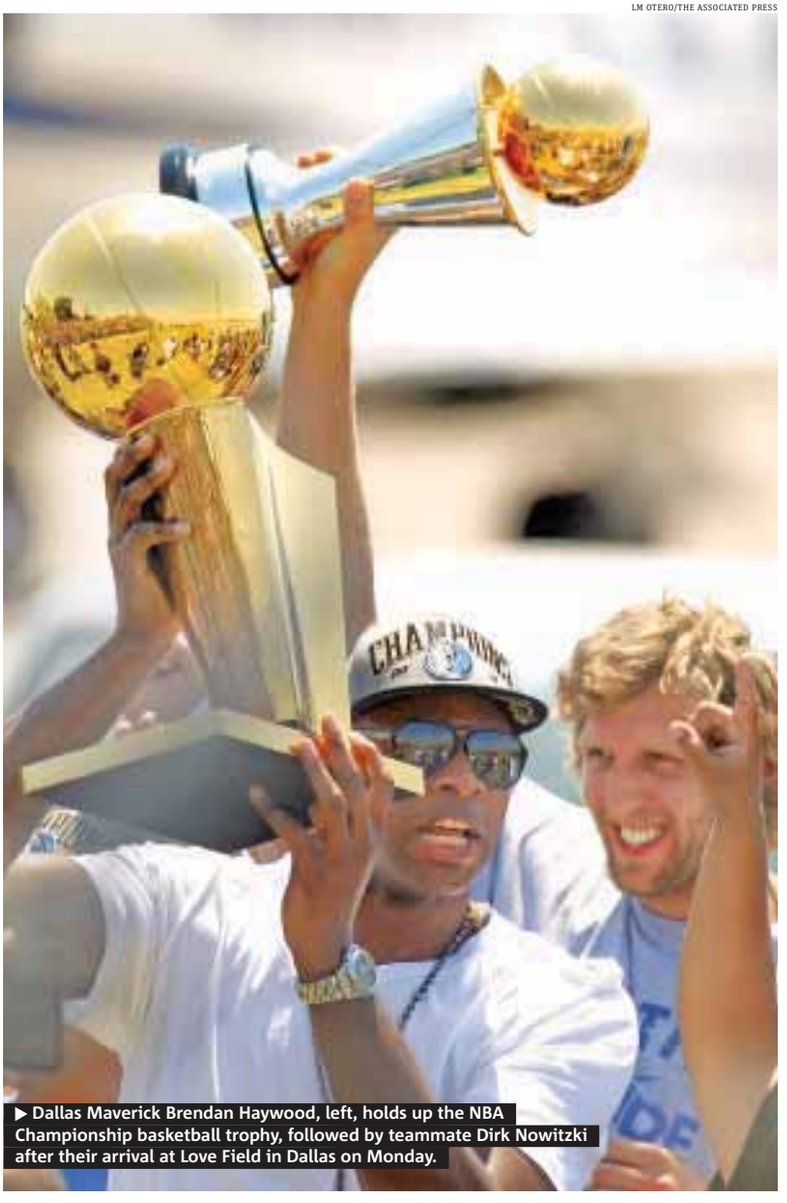
Team owner Mark Cuban has offered to pick up the tab, so it should be a doozy of a party, especially after the way he celebrated Sunday night in Miami.

Cuban also has thrown out the idea of doing something other than championship rings. Carlisle said he'd be OK with Cuban giving everyone a piece of jewelry in addition to a ring, but when "you win an NBA championship, you've got to have a ring."

"I don't know what he's thinking," Carlisle said, laughing.

Nowitzki spoke for the locker room when he said, "We've got to talk to him about that. I don't think the last word has been spoken yet. We know he always wants to do something different, something bigger. But the ring is just so classic. ... I mean, I'm a man. I don't know how I'd feel about a bracelet. I'd rather go with a ring." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LM OTERO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



▶ Dallas Maverick Brendan Haywood, left, holds up the NBA Championship basketball trophy, followed by teammate Dirk Nowitzki after their arrival at Love Field in Dallas on Monday.

Canada on verge of Gold Cup elimination after draw

Blas Perez's stoppage-time equalizer earned Panama a 1-1 draw with Canada and top spot in Group C at the Gold Cup yesterday.

Panama is three points clear of Canada, who needed Guadeloupe to beat the United States in last night's late match to avoid elimination.

Dwayne De Rosario put Canada ahead with a 62nd-minute penalty kick, before a flurry of Panama chances.

Perez eventually scored from close range in a scramble after Gabriel Gomez's shot was blocked. THE CANADIAN PRESS

CANADA	PANAMA
1	1

ORLIN WAGNER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Panama goalkeeper Luis Mejia.

Sports in brief

New ratings high in Game 6

TELEVISION. The CBC says Monday's Game 6 of the Stanley Cup final between Vancouver and Boston was its highest-ever-rated NHL game.

CBC says the game averaged an audience of 6.6 million viewers, making it the most-watched NHL broadcast in CBC history. THE CANADIAN PRESS

FBI looking into Armstrong

CYCLING. The FBI has contacted a Colorado restaurant to get surveillance tapes of a conversation between Lance Armstrong and former teammate Tyler Hamilton over the weekend.

Hamilton went on 60 Minutes last month and accused Armstrong of doping repeatedly and encouraging his teammates to do so as well. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Retuned suspension

Dodge has concentrated on turning the Avenger into a better driving car by retuning the suspension for improved ride comfort and reduced body lean while cornering.

Additionally, the ride height has been slightly lowered (more at the front than at the rear), steering precision has been improved and the distance separating the left and right wheels (track) has been widened by about an inch.

Interior

The previous Avenger's hard plastic dash and door panels have been replaced with soft-touch materials. In fact, the dash plus the gauge pod, vent openings and steering wheel are now borderline sumptuous.

And that also goes for the new seats that come with added bolster support in front. The 60:40 split-folding rear bench continues to fold nearly flat as before, and also includes a pass-through opening for transporting longer items.

Engine

Pop open the hood and the 173-horsepower 2.4-litre four-cylinder base powerplant returns, but is now attached to the sub-frame using improved engine mounts to reduce vibration.

The newly optional 283-horsepower 3.6-litre V6 can now be had in nearly every Chrysler and Dodge model. Along with delivering close to 50 more horsepower than the previous 235-horse 3.5-litre V6, the 3.6 is also much more fuel efficient in city driving.

▶ The Dodge Avenger needed to step it up a notch until Fiat, which controls Chrysler, began injecting its own platforms into the brand. That might be a year or more away, though.

Back with Avengeance

Newly preened, prepped and refreshed, the Dodge Avenger is now ready to step back into the mid-size sedan spotlight.

It has been a tough road for the Avenger. The current version that was introduced for the 2008 model year never really caught on with sedan shoppers and was clearly outclassed by higher-quality offerings from Chevrolet, Ford, Toyota, Honda and others.

MALCOLM GUNN
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA
WHEELBASE MEDIA

Given that North American sales in this segment are expected to top two million units this year, it's vital that the Avenger, along with the similarly-sized Chrysler 200, get better, and fast.

Certainly the future appears brighter now that the automaker's Fiat-controlled management has updated the Avenger as well as most of the automaker's other offerings with new style, improved cabins and up-to-date powertrains.

At $21,500, the base Avenger now sells for about $2,900 less than the previous comparable model, something that Chrysler likely felt it had to do to gain some much-needed traction with potential buyers.

With all of the across-the-board improvements, the Avenger's styling still might take some getting used to, but the rest of the package is right on the money.

5 drive

By comparison

Ford Fusion
Base price: $21,550
Popular four-door offered with manual gearbox, plus fuel-sipping hybrid version.

Honda Accord
Base price: $26,350
Easy on gas plus excellent road manners makes this a fun-to-drive sedan.

Chevrolet Malibu
Base price: $25,450
Smooth-running I4 and V6 engines have helped Malibu's popularity.

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As Guinness World Records go, it was not as wacky as most. Nothing like, Most T-Shirts Worn at Once (227), Greatest Distance by Paddling a Hand-Powered Bathtub (145.6 km), or Fastest 100 Metre Hurdles Wearing Swim Fins (22.35 seconds).

But it's a Guinness World Record nonetheless, or at least it will be, as soon as the Guinness people get around to confirming it.

Because last weekend, 587 Camaros were strategically parked in the big parking lot at the Oshawa assembly plant. New 2011 Camaros, built in the plant across the street, were put in place to form a gigantic Chevrolet "bowtie."

Camaro owners of current and previous generation models were then invited to place their cars around the "bowtie," to form a gigantic frame.

Net result: The World's Largest Car Mosaic.

CONTRIBUTED

▶ Close to 600 Camaros and Firebirds were used to cre ate this record-breaking mosaic of Chevrolet's famous 'bowtie" emblem.

The previous record was 485 vehicles.

There were lots of Camaros around, because GM threw a party for them and their owners.

"In order to thank Canada and America for loaning us money, to keep us in business, GM decided to open all of our plants to the public," says Scott Settlemire, GM's manager for Special Vehicles and Special Events.

"As soon as we found out about this, we talked to Dan Hermer, the (Camaro) plant manager, and thought about opening the plant in conjunction with the Ontario Camaro Club's Nationals. It worked out perfectly."

The Nationals are the Ontario Camaro Club's big annual blowout party, which includes social get-togethers, vendor shows, best-in-show competitions and cruises. The club usually holds the event in Niagara Falls, Ont.

"When GM invited us to come back here this year, we said, of course," remarked club president Dale Oldham. "Why would you not want to be involved here? It's a dream come true."

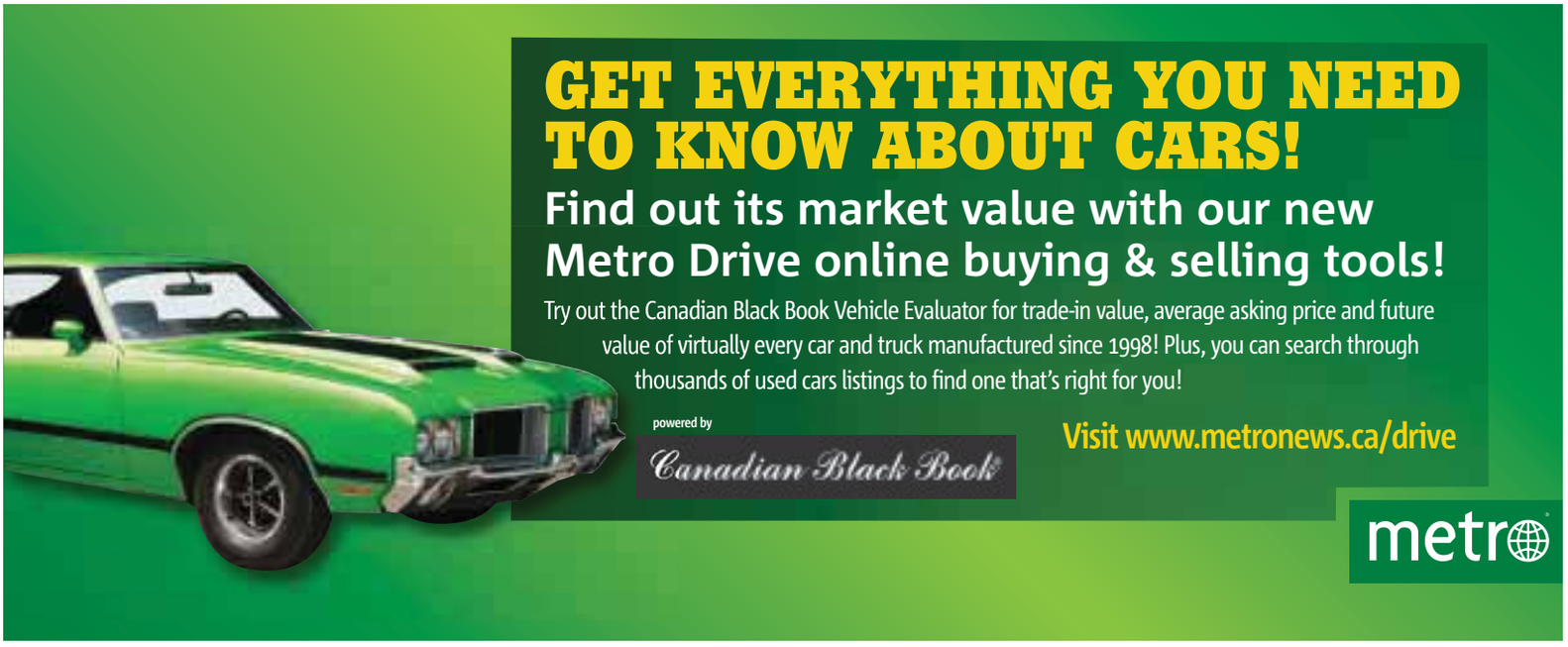
While many of the Camaros on the premises this weekend were from the Ontario club, the homecoming festivities were open to anyone, and Camaros and Camaro fans came from all over Canada and the U.S. One family even flew in from Sweden.

In addition to opening the plant for the weekend, GM also brought in some special Camaros, such as Bumblebee of Transformers II, and the recently introduced 2012 Camaro 45th Anniversary Model. The over-achieving 2012 Camaro ZL1 also made its Canadian debut during the weekend's festivities.

"This is a way to celebrate the rebirth of a Canadian and American legend," noted GM's Scott Settlemire.

"It also demonstrates to the men and women in the factory that we're building more than just an automobile, we're building dreams. Everybody wins.

"No downside... Well, maybe if you're a Mustang owner."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Veracruz loved for value and luxury

Though it may not be a well-known model, Hyundai's crossover is a solid bet

SECOND GEAR

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA

Hyundai's Veracruz hit the Canadian market for the 2007 model year with the goal of putting an affordable luxury crossover on the scene for thousands less than a comparable machine from Germany or Japan.

As the range-topping ute from the Korean automaker, Veracruz offered up top levels of comfort and style, alongside a competitive warranty and honest pricing.

All models got a 3.8-litre V6 with 260 horsepower and a six-speed automatic transmission. Most had All Wheel Drive (AWD), though a lower-priced, front-drive Veracruz was available.

Look for features like power memory seating in heated leather, a sunroof, automatic lights, automatic climate control, multimedia audio connectivity, a 6-CD changer, a rear-seat entertainment console and Bluetooth.

An intelligent key system, auto-dimming mirror and power tailgate were also on board.

What's the 4-1-1

- **Model:** 2007 to 2011 Hyundai Veracruz
- **Vehicle type:** Crossover SUV

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ 2007 Hyundai Veracruz

What Owners Like

Owners say a combination of quality, styling, interior appearance, safety ratings and a great driving position attracted them to the Veracruz, while attractive pricing and Hyundai's warranty coverage helped seal the deal.

A smooth ride, overall comfort and plenty of power are also reported, and the soundsystem and power tailgate are also a hit.

What Owners Dislike

Complaints include limited third-row seating space, which is a standard gripe in most three-row crossover models. Some owners do report a rough or jarring ride, particularly on models with larger wheels and on rougher roads. A few owners claim the ice-blue displays are difficult to read at night, too.

Common Issues

Start by inspecting all of the Veracruz's options and features for proper operation. Some owners have reported problems getting the keyfob to open the power tailgate, a CD player that won't eject discs, or a faulty "resume" button for the cruise control system.

Ensure these features all work properly — and check the automatic climate control, air conditioner, entertainment console, power seats and all lights, too.

Check the taillamps for signs of cracking, and note that driveability issues related to the engine in terms of "sputtering" or lumpy power delivery are likely caused by failing oxygen sensors. A check-engine light may be illuminated if this is the case.

On AWD models, park on some sand or a similar low-traction surface and accelerate rapidly from a stand-still, ensuring there are no unwelcomed noises or "clunks" as the AWD system engages in response to wheelspin.

The Verdict

Though information is somewhat sparse, the Veracruz looks to be a solid performer with no systematic or glaring problems reported by its small but largely-happy owner community.

Check out Justin's video car reviews online at youtube.com/mr2pritch.

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JUNE 26 Karaoke - Sunday @ 2pm
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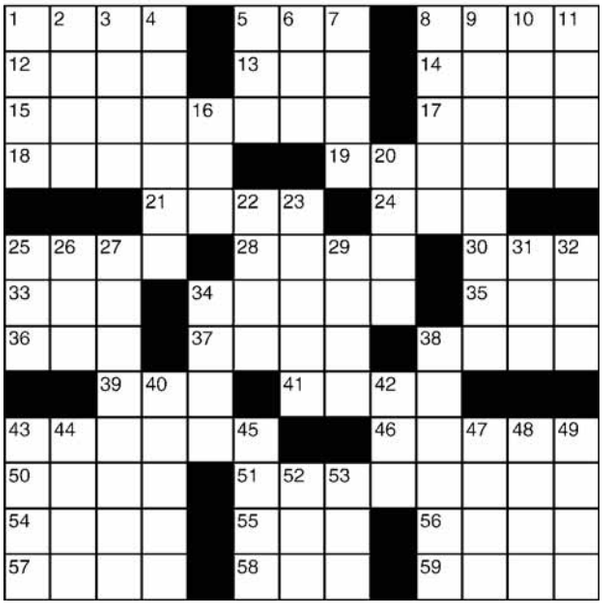

Across

1 Rebuff a masher
5 Tavern
8 Large-mouth fish
12 Green land
13 Expert
14 Aware of
15 Precede in time
17 Ollie's partner
18 Fashion
19 Eye surgery tools
21 Hollywood clashers
24 Has the skill
25 Open a bit
28 Impetuous
30 Promptly
33 Solo of "Star Wars"
34 "Inferno" writer
35 Shock and —
36 Pismire
37 Sax range
38 Region
39 Right angle
41 Duel tool
43 Tilted typeface
46 More ironic
50 Hayworth or Moreno
51 Eland, for one
54 The same, in a bibliography
55 Regret
56 Pressing need?
57 Antitoxins
58 CSI evidence
59 Egg container?

Down

1 The Red & Black
2 Dryer collection
3 Bohemian
4 Device for apples
5 Sheepish remark?
6 Performance
7 Fishing-line holder
8 "Blame It on the — Nova"
9 Insect's sensory organs
10 Celebrity
11 D.H. Lawrence's "— and Lovers"
16 B.A., e.g.
20 Liniment target
22 Exam format
23 Health, in Le Havre
25 "Eureka!"
26 One of the Brady bunch
27 Aardvark
29 Halt
31 Hooter
32 Drench
34 "Persistence of Memory" artist
38 European capital
40 Camel's cousin
42 Ram's fan?
43 Colored eye part
44 Ocean motion
45 Jack or queen
47 Bygone times
48 Long narrative poem
49 Landlord's due
52 Sister
53 Afternoon gathering

▶ Monday's answer

H	A	S	P		P	I	C		P	E	R	P		
A	L	O	E		R	A	H		O	D	O	R		
W	E	L	L	D	O	N	E		T	I	L	E		
			V	O	W		N	E	A	T	L	Y		
S	P	R	I	G		V	I	E	S					
P	I	E	S		B	E	L	L	H	O	P	S		
I	K	E		S	O	I	L	S		V	A	L		
T	E	L	L	T	A	L	E		L	U	L	U		
			A	I	D	S		G	I	M	M	E		
P	A	P	Y	R	I		P	E	T					
O	L	I	O		C	E	L	L	M	A	T	E		
M	E	N	U		E	R	E		U	R	I	S		
P	E	S	T		A	G	A		S	E	N	T		

Sudoku

	5		3			1		
1			9					4
		6		5	1			8
		3		9	7			5
6			4	3		2		
4			1	6		8		
5					3			7
		2			5		9	

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Monday's answer ▶

8	2	3	4	6	1	7	9	5
1	5	6	9	8	7	3	2	4
7	9	4	5	3	2	6	8	1
5	4	8	2	9	6	1	3	7
3	6	1	7	5	8	9	4	2
9	7	2	3	1	4	5	6	8
6	8	7	1	4	3	2	5	9
4	1	9	6	2	5	8	7	3
2	3	5	8	7	9	4	1	6

Send a KISS

You can now post your kiss, and read even more kisses, online at metronews.ca/kiss.

Hunni T xxxo, I miss you so much when we spend these long days apart. It seems it has not stoped raining since you took these long shifts. Can't wait to spend more time with you.I hope you get a chance to read this in the paper at work **HUNNI S**

Bernie Bear Love Birds
It's been 18 years that we have been together..where has all the time gone? Here's to another 18 years together. **OODLES OF NOODLES**

Jenny C, You mean so much to me. I remember our 1st date like it was yesterday. You were the 1st person to compliment my special gravy. You said they were the best potatoes you ever had. You were also the first peron brave enough to try my signature lemon squares. I am happy to be your little hacker hehe LOL. Lots of love **THE LUCIFIER <3**

Today's horoscope

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

♈ **Aries** March 21-April 20 You will be in a restless mood today. Maybe it's time to start planning your next vacation.

♉ **Taurus** April 21-May 21 Money matters and family issues must be handled with care today.

♊ **Gemini** May 22-June 21 Because today's lunar eclipse falls in your opposite sign, you will find yourself at odds with a partner or loved one over something trivial.

♋ **Cancer** June 22-July 22 Nothing in life is worth getting worked up about. Make that your motto.

♌ **Leo** July 23-Aug.23 Is a plan or project that has been close to your heart for some time worth carrying on with? Give it some thought.

♍ **Virgo** Aug. 24- Sept. 22 Some kind of disruption is likely today, especially on the home front where feelings are running high.

♎ **Libra** Sept. 23-Oct. 23 Be careful when revealing your thoughts. Some won't sit well with others.

♏ **Scorpio** Oct. 24-Nov. 22 If your head tells you one thing but your heart tells you another, you should favour logic over longing.

♐ **Sagittarius** Nov. 23-Dec. 21 No matter how much certain people may annoy you, there is nothing to gain by getting angry.

♑ **Capricorn** Dec. 22-Jan. 20 Today's eclipse falls in the most sensitive area of your chart. You'll be touchy over the next 24 hours.

♒ **Aquarius** Jan. 21-Feb. 18 Everyone is hypercritical. It doesn't help that you need their approval.

♓ **Pisces** Feb. 19-March 20. Ultimately, all change is good change, though it may not seem that way at the time. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Caption contest

GUS RUELAS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ALASTAIR GRANT/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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[1] You will earn 2% cash back on the first $25,000 you spend annually at merchants classified by VISA as Grocery Stores & Supermarkets, Drug Stores & Pharmacies, Service Stations, Automated Fuel Dispensers and Recurring Payments (Merchant Codes: 5912, 5411,5541 & 5542). Sometimes there are separate merchants located on the premises of these merchants but are classified by VISA in another manner, in which case this added benefit will not apply. Recurring payments are defined as payments made on a monthly or regular basis automatically billed by a merchant. Earn 1% cash back on purchases made after you have reached the 2% $25,000 annual max., and on all other purchases. [2] *Scotia Momentum* cash back is not awarded for cash advances, *Scotia*® VISA Cheques, credit vouchers, payments, purchase returns, card fees, interest charges or service/transactioncharges. † Offer ends June 30, 2011. * Visa Int./Lic. user The Bank of Nova Scotia. ® Registered trademarks of The Bank of Nova Scotia. ™ Trademark of Visa Int./Lic. user The Bank of Nova Scotia.